

20 December 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of Congressional Leaders**

1. The Director on 10 December gave a 40-minute TOP SECRET version of his 5 December NSC Briefing on NIE 11-3, 11-8, and the Soviet economy, for the Congressional majority and minority leaders and chairmen of the armed services, foreign relations, and appropriations committees. The briefing took place in the Cabinet Room and was attended by the President, Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, and Speaker McCormack, all of whom had also attended the 5 December briefing.

2. The Director followed his edited text (revision of TS 186422/63) and/or the accompanying charts, which included deployment maps of the major ICBM complexes, MRBM/IRBM launching sites, and SAM launching sites. There were few questions.

3. Following the Director's briefing, there was a 10-minute tour of the horizon by Secretary Rusk, and a 10-minute informal briefing by Secretary McNamara.

4. The Secretary of Defense said that:

a) In Long Range Aviation our superiority, conservatively estimated, was at least 3-1 and would hold that margin through 1970; that on the basis of effective attack our superiority was 5 or 6 to 1.

b) In land-based ICBMs, our superiority was 3-1 and would remain an effective 2-1/2 or 3 to 1 through 1970;

c) Submarine strategic attack capability, while not comparable because of Soviet shortcomings in range, propulsion system, missile types, numbers of launchers, and the present surface-firing requirement, would show US superiority of a least 3-1 through 1970.

NAVY, DIA and OSD review(s) completed.

d) The Soviets have consistently outspent us on air defense but cannot prevent penetration as their defenses will be "overwhelmed by technique and mass." He noted that our present ABM system was at least as good as the Leningrad system and had intercepted 10 missiles fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base. We are spending \$500 million a year on R&D of the improved successor, NIKEX, but the cost to defend cities with 30 percent of the US population would be an initial \$15 billion and a continuing \$1 to \$2 billion annually.

5. Secretary McNamara concluded that we can absorb a surprise attack and survive with sufficient power to "literally destroy the Soviet Union," but that in any thermonuclear exchange there would be an estimated 50 to 100 million casualties in the US and Western Europe.

6. Finally Secretary McNamara gave the Congressmen a rundown on proposed DOD economies proposed for FY63, including a civilian personnel ceiling of 997,000, (under one million for the first time in 15 years), cancellation of DYNASOAR in favor of less costly space systems, and reduction or closing of 35 installations in 15 states and three foreign countries, not further specified.

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